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PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/705,747	
	Filing Date	November 10, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	LEE RAMAGE	
	Art Unit	3644	
	Examiner Name	Not yet assigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	16	Attorney Docket Number	ERI 306B

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Pierre C. Van Rysselberghe Kolisch Hartwell, P.C.
Signature	
Date	May 11, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Typed or printed name	Pamela A. Knight
Signature	
Date	May 11, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Date: May 11, 2004

LEE RAMAGE, ALAN B. MACDONALD
and RORY D. PARKER

Serial No. : 10/705,747

Group Art Unit: 3644

Filed : November 10, 2003

For : FLUID LOADING SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98

Applicants are submitting this Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the patents, publications, applications, and/or other references listed on the enclosed, completed PTO-1449 form. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the listed references are prior art for this application. Applicants respectfully request that the listed references be expressly considered during prosecution of the application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patents issuing therefrom.

CONTENT OF DISCLOSURE

This Information Disclosure Statement includes one page of PTO-1449 form; however, with the exception of U.S. Patent No. 5,451,016 which was not provided in an earlier U.S. application, it does not include copies of the references listed on the form, as permitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), because copies already were provided in an earlier U.S. application (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/803,227 filed March 9, 2001 which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/188,547, filed March 10, 2000) that is relied on here for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE REFERENCES

A concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference not in the English language follows:

French Patent No. 2512775: In-flight water scooping system for fire fighting aircraft using torpedo shaped scoop with motor and control surfaces controlled from the aircraft for depth, direction and speed. A torpedo shaped scoop is self-propelled under water by a motor. The scoop is attached to the airplane by a towing cable and a tubular cable which passes over winches in the aircraft. The water is forced into the scoop inlet and is forced into the tubular cable to be pumped into water tanks in the aircraft by suction pumps. Tow ailerons and a rudder on the tail section ensure that the scoop is maintained in the water during the trawling action by the aircraft. These controls are controlled by commands issued from the aircraft and transmitted along the towing cable.

When the tanks are full the scoop is winched aboard the aircraft and the rudder and ailerons provide control to guide the scoop.

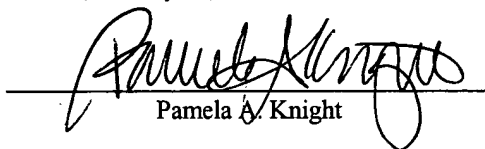
TIMING OF DISCLOSURE / FEE INFORMATION

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, either (1) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits, or (2) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee or statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is required.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions or comments regarding this Information Disclosure Statement.


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Respectfully submitted,

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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		DOCKET NUMBER ERI 306B		APPLICATION NUMBER 10/705,747			
		APPLICANTS LEE RAMAGE, ALAN B. MACDONALD and RORY D. PARKER					
		FILING DATE November 10, 2003		GROUP ART UNIT 3644			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FIL. DATE IF APPROP.	
	1,609,762	12/7/1926	Morgan				
	3,442,334	5/6/1969	Gousetis				
	3,710,868	1/16/1973	Chadwick				
	3,714,987	2/6/1973	Mattson				
	3,759,330	9/18/1973	Rainey et al.				
	3,897,829	8/5/1975	Eason				
	4,172,499	10/30/1979	Richardson et al.				
	4,474,350	10/2/1984	Hawkshaw				
	5,451,016	9/19/1995	Foy et al.				
	5,967,462	10/19/1999	Foster et al.				
	6,209,593	4/3/2001	Nichols, Sr.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	2512775	9/17/1981	France				X
OTHER DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				